

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 04585 190916Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T RABAT 4585

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCANS BRIEFED ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP

REF SECTO 08170

1. AS KING HASSAN IS CURRENTLY IN IFRANE FOR BEGINNING OF RAMADAN AND IS RECEIVING NO VISITORS. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI AUGUST 17 TO BRIEF HIM ON SECRETARY'S TRIP. I GAVE HIM ORAL RUNDOWN OF HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR MEETING WITH SECRETARY IN AMMAN AND DREW ON REFTEL, ALSO PROVIDING DETAILED SUMMARY IN FRENCH BASED ON REFTEL FOR KING. LARAKI READ THE SUMMARY CAREFULLY AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE KING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (DURING SUBSEQUENT MEETING AUGUST 18, LARAKI SAID THE HE HAD GIVEN BRIEF OUTLINE BY PHONE TO KING OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP AND HAD ALREADY SENT FRENCH SUMMARY TO IFRANE, AND THAT KING WISHED TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF TRIP WITH HIM AFTER RETURN TO RABAT IN NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS, PARTICULARLY U.S. INITIATIVES ON READINESS TO DEAL WITH PLO.)

2. LARAKI EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR RAPID AND DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S TALKS, STATING THAT HIS ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THE RESULTS OF TRIP HAD BEEN POSITIVE. HE NOTED PARTICULARLY THAT U.S. PREPARED TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACTS WITH PLO UNDER CONDITIONS OUTLINED REFTEL. IN REPLY TO HIS
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QUESTION, I SAID THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW, THERE HAD THUS FAR BEEN NO REACTION FROM THE PLO. LARAKI SAID HE WAS SURE THAT KING WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS ASPECT AND MIGHT WELL WISH TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE IN OBTAINING A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PLO. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REVISION OF 242, I MADE OUR NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR. LARAKI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND AGREED THAT ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD EFFECTIVELY SCUTTLE CHANCES OF

OUR DEALING WITH PLO.

3. LARAKI RECALLED THAT IN LATE 1976 CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY IN NEW YORK BEFORE SECRETARY HAD TAKEN UP HIS DUTIES, LARAKI HAD CITED EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND DEEP-ROUTED FRICTION BETWEEN IRAQ AND SYRIA AS A CANCEROUS PROBLEM WHOSE SOLUTION WAS MANDATORY FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. ANYTHING THE SECRETARY COULD DO TO EASE THIS PROBLEM COULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPACT ON PROGRESS OF PEACE EFFORTS. WHILE LARAKI HAD NO SPECIAL SUGGESTIONS AND ADMITTED HE HAD NOT YET THOUGHT MATTER THROUGH, HE HOPED THAT IN VIEW OF DEEP USG ENGAGEMENT WE WOULD BE FOCUSING ON THE PROBLEM, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS WITH SECRETARY NEXT MONTH IN WASHINGTON (SEE SEPTEL RE THIS VISIT IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S INVITATION).
ANDERSON

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NNN

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